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WASHINGTON, D.C.

[redacted]

THE NRO STAFF

17 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, COMIREX

SUBJECT: Draft Annex 40--Foreign Access to TKH Derived Photographic Products

I have noted the "proposal only" paragraph contained in your draft Annex concerning the treatment of the "fact of" U.S. photo satellites as unclassified. I believe that since the issue of declassification of the "fact of" is one of major national policy, it is inappropriate to raise the issue using the draft Annex. Without arguing the merits of declassification, I believe that the implications of such an action go far beyond the scope of interest to the decompartmentation working group. Accordingly, I plan to instruct my representative to request your working chairman to withdraw the paragraph.

[redacted]
HAROLD P. WHEELER, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Director

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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

8 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ROSENBERG

Concur generally in your response, disagreeing with the release of the "fact of." Suggest you modify your letter to Inlow as follows: First two sentences o.k. as written. Then, substitute something to the effect ". . . It is the NRO's understanding that this issue has been referred to the NSC by the DCI and SecDef. Pending resolution at that level is inappropriate to include it in this document."

J. W. P.

J. W. Plummer

[redacted] CLASSIFIED [redacted] EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DE[redacted] SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Draft Annex 40--Foreign Access to TKH Derived Photographic Products

As you are aware, the Decompartmentation Committee, under the chair of Roland Inlow, has been working for several months to refine the policy and documentation concerning the handling of satellite photography in the intelligence community. We have participated in the committee effort throughout its life. The chairman of the working group has chosen a relatively obscure annex to surface the "fact of" declassification issue. We have not been able to ascertain the logic in this but feel that it should be headed off at this time. The decompartmentation process is clearly an improper forum with which to raise the issue. We believe that a memorandum from me to Mr. Inlow will serve to have the paragraph withdrawn. We point out to Mr. Inlow that the "fact of" issue in its entirety is being addressed in the National Space Policy paper. With your concurrence, I will sign the memorandum at the right.

[redacted]
HAROLD P. WHEELER, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Director

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